



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# MCHF Presentation to the FLR Policy Accelerator Workshop

Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests in Malawi (MCHF)  
Tiphike Mwa Makono Poteteza Nkhalango

# BRIEF BACKGROUND—DEFORESTATION & FOREST DEGRADATION: MUCH MORE THAN AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE...A PRESSING DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

## Forest Cover Summary

- Forest cover in 1985 = ~38% of the land area (94,080km<sup>2</sup>)
- Forest cover in 2022 = ~24%
- Deforestation rate = 0.6% - 0.7% per year (~15,000ha/year)
- Forest degradation (thinning) is responsible for **2-3** times the tree loss (equiv. to 30K-45K ha/yr)

## The Primary Driver - The Lack of Urban Cooking/Heating Energy Alternatives

- More than 80% of Malawi's total primary energy supply comes from biomass
- Approx. 11% of the pop. connected to the grid, but only 2% of the pop. cook on electricity.
- Nonetheless, over the past decade investment in the "grid" and "off-grid" solutions >\$1B, while investments in the cooking energy subsector >\$15M.

## Deforestation Directly Impacts Every Malawian Household

- In rural areas: Deforestation leads to soil erosion/run off, resulting in decreasing agricultural productivity, negatively impacting food security.
- In urban areas: Deforestation results in incr. loadshedding/blackouts, and higher electricity costs
- ...and overall, deforestation negatively impacts national economic development and undermines hard fought development gains—leaving Malawi more susceptible to climate change.

## OBSERVATIONS FROM EXPERIENCE TO DATE: WE NEED TO FOCUS (AND TO GET THE FOCUS CORRECT)

The problem in the FORESTRY SECTOR is... the loss of natural forests

- **Why?** Unmet urban cooking, heating and industrial energy demand

To the FORESTRY SECTOR are all cooking/heating woodfuels the same?

- **No!!!!** Need to focus first/last/most on the woodfuel uses that are driving defor/degred:
  - Charcoal = #1
  - Industrial firewood = #2

Historically, what has been the focus of the FORESTRY SECTOR

- TREE PLANTING, TREE PLANTING, TREE PLANTING
- What about protecting existing forests?
- What about restoring degraded forests?

Historically, what has been the focus of the ENERGY/COOKING ENERGY SECTOR?

- ENERGY SECTOR FOCUS = on grid/offgrid  $\neq$  cooking/heating/industrial energy; and,
- Majority of cooking energy/technology focus has been on firewood stove—so not focused on addressing defor/degred priority #1 or #2

**SUMMARY:** Most investments (GoM, Donor) have NOT addressed the causes/  
problem, so cannot/have not contributed to the solution

# MCHF INTEGRATED APPROACH MULTIFACETED AND PARTNER DRIVEN



Strengthen regulatory  
and enforcement  
framework



Promote AE/FE



Increase the supply of  
sustainable charcoal



Improve forest  
management and  
conservation



Increase GoM capacity  
for systematic data  
collection & use

# MCHF INTEGRATED APPROACH MULTIFACETED AND PARTNER DRIVEN

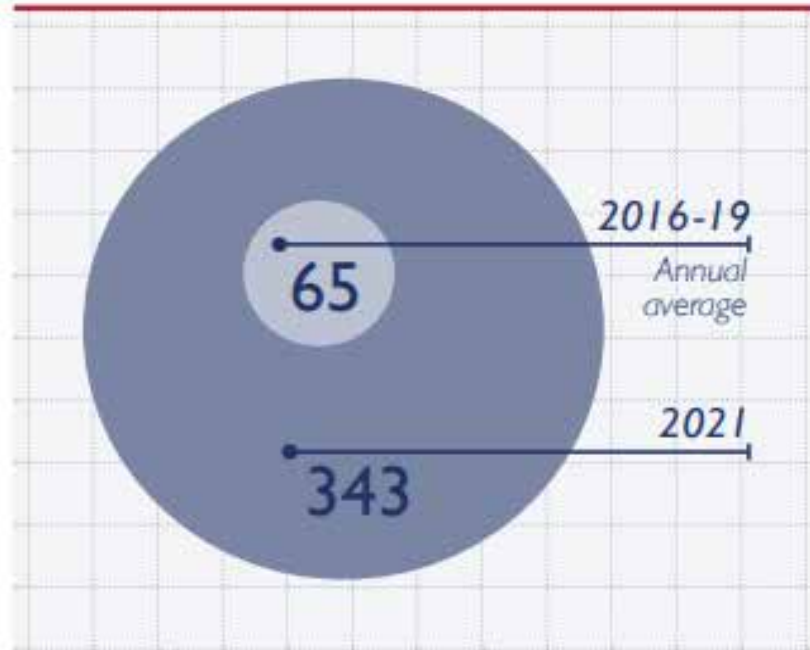


Strengthen regulatory  
and enforcement  
framework

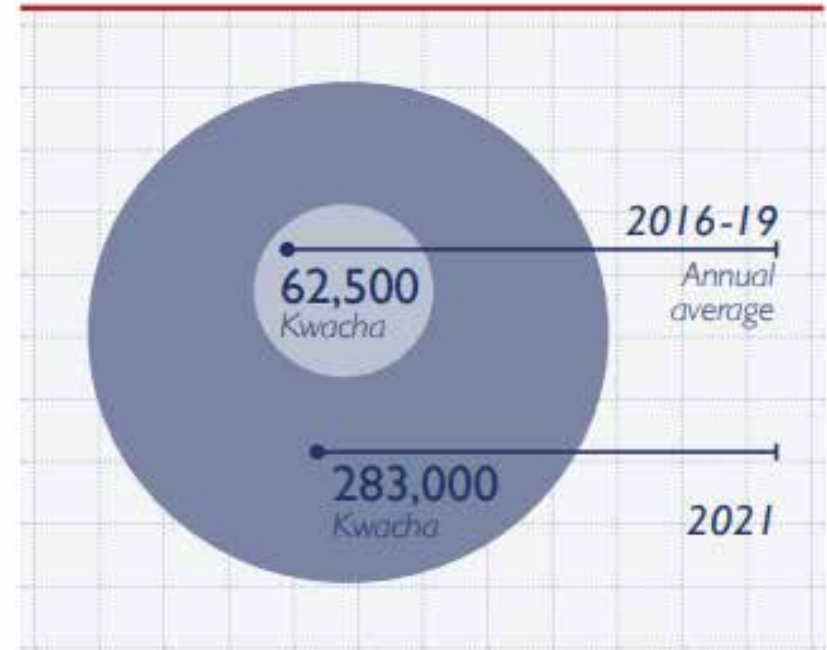


## ARE IMPROVEMENTS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFECTING CHARCOAL PRICES? YES!!!

Number of convictions  
for forestry related crimes



Average fine levied for  
forestry related crimes



*Malawi's minimum monthly salary is 42,000 kwacha, approx.*

- Data not updated above... but 65 – 343 - 590 people convicted in 2022
  - ~100% increase in charcoal prices between. Sept. 2020 – Sept.2022

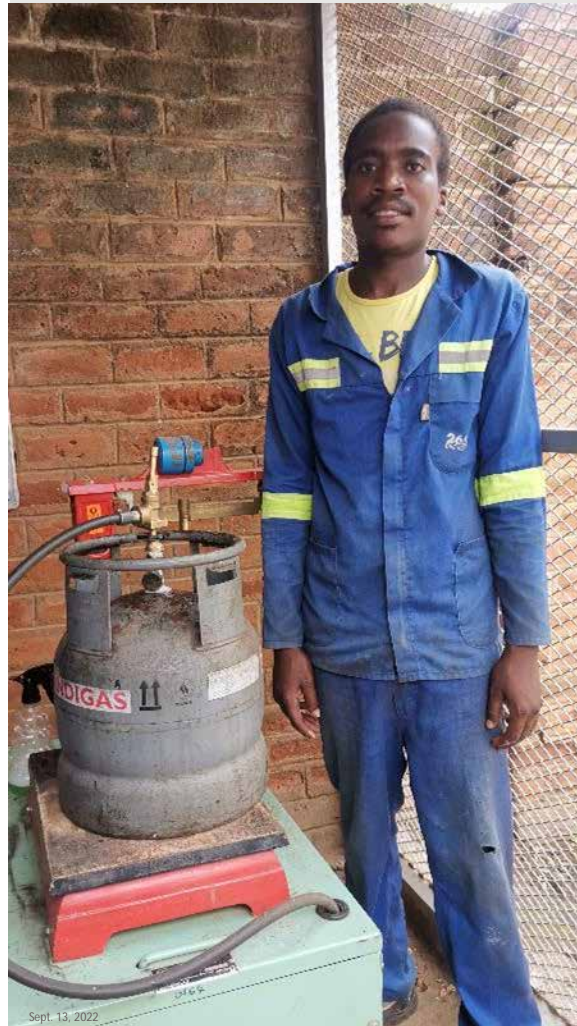
# MCHF INTEGRATED APPROACH MULTIFACETED AND PARTNER DRIVEN



Promote  
AE/FE



# PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND COOKING TECHNOLOGY: URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WANT ALTERNATIVES!!!



Sept. 13, 2022

Malawi's LPG sector doubled in the last few years!  
And it is set to double again this year!

**2019/2020**

3 LPG bulk importers  
imported 1,030,000kg



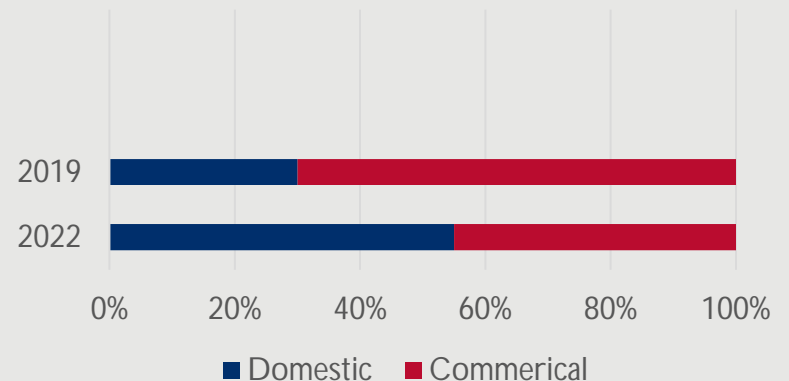
**2021/2022**

8 LPG bulk importers  
imported +2,000,000kg\*

**48**

Registered LPG  
distributors  
in Malawi  
(2022)

LPG Consumption:  
Domestic vs Commercial

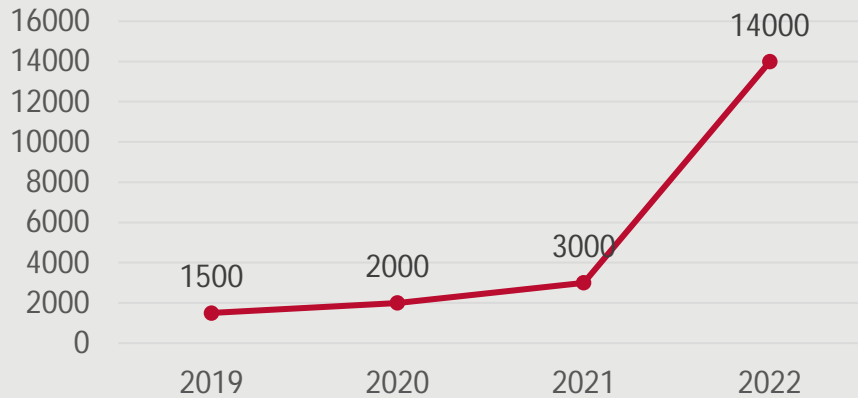






# PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND COOKING TECHNOLOGY: URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WANT ALTERNATIVES!!!

ICC 2019 - 2022



**2019**  
0 ICC  
producers

**VS**

**2022**  
4 ICC  
producers



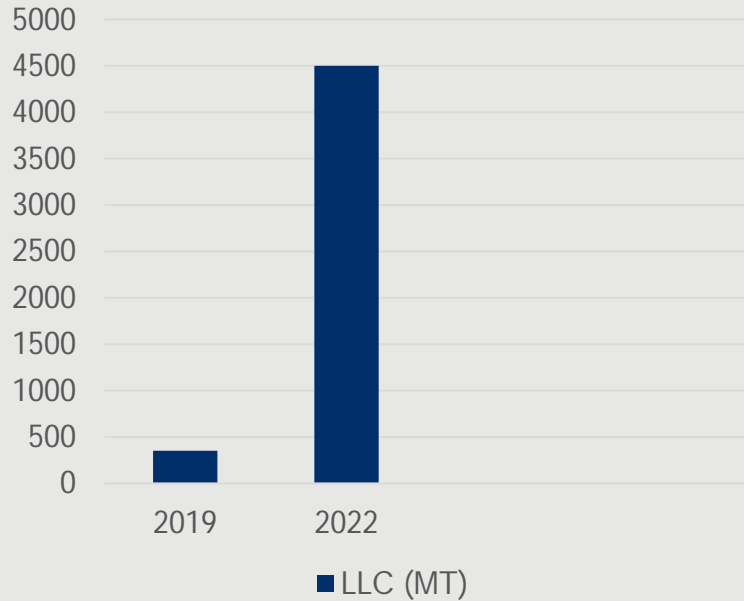
# MCHF INTEGRATED APPROACH MULTIFACETED AND PARTNER DRIVEN



Increase the supply of  
legal licensed charcoal

Licensed Charcoal Prod (MT)

LLC CHARCOAL PRODUCTION /DEMAND ARE GROWING!!!



LLC CHARCOAL LICENSES (NUMBER INCREASING!!)

2019 = 3

2022 = 10

2023 = ???



# AS YOU MOVE INTO THE WORKSHOP—POINTS TO CONSIDER: HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE PRACTICE OF FLR (AND ITS IMPACT)

In the Forestry Sector, the focus MUST BE on:

- #1 protecting remaining natural forests; and
- #2 restoring natural forests

note: it is impossible to restore natural forests by tree planting

In the Cook. Energy Sect. the focus MUST BE on:

- #1 addressing charcoal (alternatives/efficiencies)
- #2 addressing industrial firewood

Aligning approaches is difficult—but vital

Focus your limited resources on implementation

- Malawi's Strategy/legal/policy env. is better than most
- Yes—improvements can be made...but before investing in further policy reform, ask:

- Is “this change” guaranteed to impact FLR on the ground?

If the answer is NO—do NOT invest... invest in implementation

